

# THE TEXAS RESOLUTION CONNECTION

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## ADR IN PRACTICE...A LOST SEASON

Organic farming is gaining popularity within the agriculture community. The United States Department of Agriculture now certifies farms as purely organic, and the products and producers must pass rigorous tests to ensure the validity of the organic claims.

But what happens if the farm next door is not farmed using organic methods? What if chemicals drift onto the organic crops? What if the whole season is ruined due to a neighbor's oversight? And finally, how is a producer going to pay back all of the loans he took out at the beginning of the season? With no income and fields of organic crops ruined, what is the next step?

First, the producer could decide revenge is always satisfactory. But a word of caution—this will never help him pay back the loans. Yes, it may make him feel better about the situation for a short time, but it will certainly not fix the situation. In order to deal directly with the problem of paying back the loans, a great option may be to invite the creditor or creditors with whom the producer has his loans to mediation.

The producer may also want to consider inviting the neighbor to see how both can co-produce in the future to prevent a similar situation. Mediation will enable the producer to

explain the situation, how the producer plans to recover, and specific terms of the loans in question. It allows all parties to express their position and provides an atmosphere that is non-confrontational and confidential to resolve the issues.

Mediation is an opportunity to spell out what will happen in the future, not dwell on what happened in the past. Texas Rural Mediation Services can assist anyone with any type of alternative dispute resolution service, including mediation. An answer may be just a phone call away.

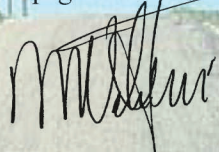
## FROM THE DIRECTOR...

If you haven't already heard, we are busy planning the Kerrville Summit to be held in Kerrville, Texas, June 11-15, 2007. I want to personally invite you to attend one, or all, of the many forums and workshops being held that week. Our focus with the summit is to concentrate on the issues of Rural Texas, namely what is the future and what is in store for those living in these areas.

We are all aware of the community issues associated with the future of rural Texas. But no conference, symposium, etc. has explored this future in the context of alternative dispute resolution. We feel passionate about being prepared for the future and ensuring the survival of Rural Texas communities through the use of alternative dispute resolution methods to explore solutions to potential problems facing rural communities. This passion will be explored in further detail during the summit, and we invite all who share this vision to attend. I would also like to thank the following who have pledged their support of the Summit thus far: Monsanto, James Hurt with Lifestyle Homes, the Texas Agricultural Lifetime Leadership Program, and the Hill Country Alternative Dispute Resolution Center.

In addition to the Forum for Dispute Resolution in Rural Texas, we are also providing mediator skill-building workshops, advanced alternative dispute resolution trainings, as well as a course in property tax arbitration. You could travel to large metropolitan areas to receive ADR training, but it is our thinking that professionals practicing in Rural Texas should not have to travel to a large city to receive such training. So, we are coming to you instead.

We are excited to be able to provide all of these educational opportunities. More information is located on pages 3 and 4, and registration information will be mailed soon. We hope to see you in Kerrville!



Join us for the  
Kerrville Summit  
June 11-15, 2007

## RURAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING...



*Rural Advisory Committee Meeting*

January 18, 2007, was a bitter cold day, even for Austin, TX. The city was just thawing out as prospective members of the Texas Dispute Resolution System™ Rural Advisory Committee met to discuss the voids

of Alternative Dispute Resolution services in rural Texas. The participants were active in expressing and exploring the various avenues for addressing these gaps.

The meeting was very successful, and the following people now comprise the Rural Advisory Committee:

Andy Bowman—Airtricity, Inc.  
Becky Conditt—Texas Rural Health Association  
Bill Warnick—General Land Office  
Brandon Lipps—Senator Robert Duncan—Staff  
Charlie Stone—Office of Rural Community Affairs  
Dan Klinefelter—Texas Cooperative Extension  
David Sullivan—Farm Service Agency  
John Zahn—Retired  
Linda Shoemaker—Committee Chair  
Sandra Tenorio—Texas Rural Communities  
Shannon Sneary—Texas House of Representatives Energy Committee Clerk  
Shawn Jamail—General Land Office  
Steven Klose—Texas Cooperative Extension  
Todd Burkey—Texas Commission on Environmental Quality

The next official meeting of the Rural Advisory Committee will be on June 14, from 10:00 a.m. to noon, during the Kerrville Summit. As always, we invite all committee members to attend other sessions during the week as well as meet the Texas Rural Mediation Services mediators on June 14, from 8:30 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.

## DID YOU KNOW...

...As of March 15, 100 parents in Lubbock County had been placed on community supervision with our office for non-payment of child support obligations for 137 children since December 2006. The total arrearages are \$1,161,786.94 which is an average of \$11,801.36 per child.

...Texas is the third largest exporter of agricultural commodities. Texas' top agricultural exports are: live animals and red meat; cotton and cottonseed; hides and skins; wheat and products; and feeds and fodder.

...133 out of 254 Texas counties are considered rural. An additional 64 counties are considered to be frontier (less than 7 people per square mile).

## MEET THE STAFF AND BOARD...

Each issue we will focus on one of our staff and Board members. This issue spotlights **Crystal Jackson, Service Delivery Senior Clerk** and **David Hazlewood, Chairman of the Board**.



*Crystal Jackson*

Crystal Jackson was one of the most tenured members of our organization, with over six years of service. Her dedication and hard work ethic showed in every case that moved through our system and she was instrumental in creating the service delivery system in place today.

Crystal has accepted a position with the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services as an Administrative Technician. She will be missed greatly and we wish her the best of luck with her new venture.



*David Hazlewood*

David Hazlewood began his service on the Dispute Resolution Advisory Board in 2000 and has been a very active member of our organization ever since. He became the Chairman of the Board in 2002, and he played an integral role in our move to Lubbock County. David practices law in Lubbock,

Texas.

## IN THE NEWS...



*Mr. and Mrs. Augustus Campbell*

Augustus "Auggie" Campbell and Jane Cardnell were married just hours before graduation from Texas Tech University School of Law in May 2006.

Both students were enrolled in the Advanced ADR Clinical Program at the School of Law and took Basic Mediation Training, taught by Gene Valentini. Their story is told in the Fall/Winter 2006 edition of the *Texas Tech Lawyer*.

## KERRVILLE SUMMIT...

This summer, make plans to join us in Kerrville, Texas, for a fast-paced, week-long series of educational and thought-provoking discussions as well as numerous opportunities for advanced training in various dimensions of alternative dispute resolution.

This is sure to be one of the most information-packed weeks of the year with leaders from all industries and professions leading the discussions during the Forum for Dispute Resolution in Rural Texas. In addition, ADR professionals will lead trainings in ADR and advanced mediator skills.

Anyone who is interested in any of the topics below may attend. All courses are approved by the State Bar of Texas for Continuing Legal Education credit. Reciprocal approval is available for many other professions as well.

### Forum for Dispute Resolution in Rural Texas

#### Discussion Topics:

Crop Biotechnology and the Science of Coexistence  
Wind Power: The New Wave of the Future  
Challenges for Rural Healthcare  
Water, Water: Is it Really Everywhere?  
Economic Vitality of Rural Texas

### Alternative Dispute Resolution Topics:

Advanced Mediator Skill Building Training  
Child Protective Services Mediation Training  
Family Mediation Training  
Property Tax Arbitration Training

**Who:** Anyone with an interest in Alternative Dispute Resolution, Rural Texas, Agricultural Production, Biotechnology, Wind Energy, Water, Solar Energy, Rural Economies, or Healthcare.

**When:** June 11-15, 2007

**Where:** Y.O. Ranch and Resort

2033 Sydney Baker, Kerrville, Texas

For Room Reservations, call 1-877-967-3767

**Why:** To provide an educational forum to discuss issues dealing with the issues that may arise when preparing for the future and vitality of Rural Texas communities.

To register, please go to <http://www.co.lubbock.tx.us/drc/training.htm> and fill out a registration form. A schedule of activities for the week is on page 4, and an informational brochure with a registration form will be mailed in mid-April.

## 2007 TRAINING DATES...

### Basic Mediation Training

April 16-20, Salado, TX  
August 6-10, Lubbock, TX (Updated dates)  
September 17-21, Ruidoso, NM  
October 15-19, Harlingen, TX

### Parenting Coordinator Training

April 16-18, Salado, TX  
August 13-15, Lubbock, TX

### Family Mediation Training

June 11-14, Kerrville, TX

### Property Tax Arbitration

April 10-13, Lubbock, TX  
May 15-18, El Paso, TX  
June 12-15, Kerrville, TX

### CPS Mediation Training

June 14-15, Kerrville, TX

### ADR Professional Continuing Education\*

Legislative Review: September 8, Lubbock, TX  
Family/Juvenile: November 3, Lubbock, TX

### Continuing Legal Education

Healthcare: April 27, Sherman, TX  
Elder Law: May 10, College Station, TX  
Elder Law: September 13, Vernon, TX  
Healthcare: September 14, Vernon, TX  
Elder Law: October 18, Harlingen, TX  
Healthcare: October 19, Harlingen, TX  
Healthcare: October 26, Lufkin, TX  
Elder Law: November 2, Seminole, TX

### Second Annual Symposium for Resolving Healthcare Disputes\*\*

October 12, Lubbock, TX

### Bankruptcy Laws: Information for Lawyers and Mediators. Why YOU may be in Trouble! \*\*

September 7, Lubbock, TX

We also offer training sessions specifically tailored to your specifications. If you do not see a training topic or location that meets your needs, please contact our office and we will accommodate you as best we can.

To register for any of the trainings, please visit our Web site at <http://www.co.lubbock.tx.us/drc/training.htm>.

\*RSVP only, no registration required  
\*\*Co-sponsored by the Lubbock County Bar Association

## KERRVILLE SUMMIT SCHEDULE OF EVENTS...

### Advanced Mediator Skill Building Track

*Confidentiality:* Wednesday, 9:00—12:00

*Emotional Intelligence:* Wednesday, 1:00—4:00

*Bankruptcy:* Thursday, 9:00—12:00

*Cultural Diversity:* Thursday, 1:00—4:00

### Forum for Dispute Resolution in Rural Texas Track

*Natural Resources:* Tuesday, 8:30—12:00

*Crop Biotechnology and the Science Behind Coexistence I:* Tuesday, 1:00—4:00

*Crop Biotechnology and the Science Behind Coexistence II:* Wednesday, 8:30—12:00

*Rural Economy:* Wednesday, 1:00—4:00

### Property Tax Arbitration

Tuesday to Thursday, 8:00—5:30; Friday, 8:00—12:30

### Family Mediation Training Track

*Family Mediation Training:* Monday, 1:00—5:00; Tuesday to Wednesday, 8:00—5:00; Thursday, 8:00—12:00

*CPS Mediation Training:* Thursday, 1:00—5:00; Friday, 8:00—12:00

## TRMS MEDIATOR CONTINUING ED TRAINING...

The annual training for Texas Rural Mediation Services mediators will be from 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Tuesday, June 12 and Wednesday, June 13 and from 8:30 a.m. to noon on Thursday, June 14.

The topics include natural resources, crop biotechnology, and rural economy as a part of the Forum for Dispute Resolution in Rural Texas. In addition, the Rural Advisory Committee will meet the morning of June 14, and you will have an opportunity to meet and discuss with them your role in our system. We will follow up with more information soon.

## THANKS AND APPRECIATION...

*"The purpose of this letter is to express my appreciation to the State...for making this dispute resolution process possible"*

*"...I feel much gratefulness in knowing that there is an outfit such as yours prepared to plan and organize mediation sessions."*

*"I really learned more than I would have imagined not only about arbitration, but LAW..."*

*"You provided EXPERTS from all pertinent fields..."*

## YOUR TURN TO TALK...

We are beginning to plan continuing education and other ADR trainings for 2008. If you have any topic or location suggestions, please let us know.

The Department is also updating the strategic plan and accepting suggestions for service delivery, outreach and administrative goals. If you have any, let us know.

## DISPUTE RESOLUTION ADVISORY BOARD

David Hazlewood  
Chairman of the Board

Robert Wilson  
Vice Chairman of the Board

## COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Brian Shannon, Legal  
Linda Shoemaker, Rural  
Marisela Olivas, Service Delivery  
Robert Wilson, Administration

## BOARD MEMBERS

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Jim Dulin	Walker Metcalf
Cleddie Edwards	Scott Morris
Ramon Gallegos	Joe Nagy
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Les Hatch	Larry Spain
Rod Knott	John Zahn
Tom Mann	

This newsletter is published by the  
Texas Dispute Resolution System™

Our Office Provides the Following Services:

- |                                     |  |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| • Family/Divorce Mediation          | • USDA Agricultural Mediation Program        |
| • Parenting Coordinator Referrals   | • Rural Mediation                            |
| • Community Supervision Program     | • Arbitration                                |
| • Social Studies                    | • Basic Mediation Training                   |
| • Civil Mediation                   | • Family Mediation Training                  |
| • Criminal Mediation                | • Parenting Coordinator Training             |
| • Law Enforcement Referrals         | • Property Tax Arbitration Training          |
| • Educational Institution Referrals | • CPS Mediation Training                     |
| • Intergovernmental Referrals       | • Continuing Legal Education Workshops       |
| • Healthcare Mediation Program      | • Continuing Education for ADR Professionals |
|                                     | • Customized Training                        |

For more information about our services,  
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